

COVER PAGE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
OFFICE OF GRANTS AND RESEARCH

United States Attorney, District of MA Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative

1.) Name of Organization/Office: Massachusetts Department of Public Health/W.A. Hinton State Laboratory

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2.) CEO/District Attorney: John Auerbach, Commissioner

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3.) Chief Financial Officer: Carol Weisberg

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4.) Project Title: Increasing Efficiency of Forensic Drug Testing

5.) Exact Funds Requested: \$ 10,000

6.) Project Manager: *This is the person who will be contacted by EOPS for most questions.*

Name: Julianne Nassif

Title: Director, Division of Analytical Chemistry

Address: 305 South Street, Room 305a

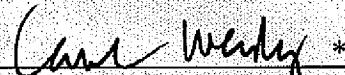
City/Town: Boston, MA 02130

Phone: (617) 983 - 6651 **Fax:** (617) 983 - 6662

E-Mail: (must be included) julianne.nassif@state.ma.us

I hereby approve the following content and authorize the submission of this "Application for Grant Funds" to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security/Office of Grants and Research for the United States Attorney's "Project Safe Neighborhood" grant opportunity.

(name)*



* Signature (blue ink)

Authorized Signature /CEO

* 6/26/04
Date

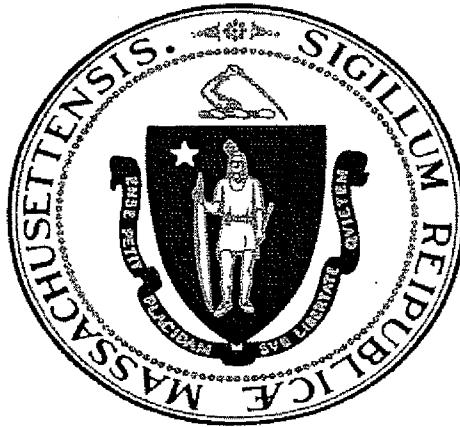
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health analyzes substances suspected to be illicit drugs, for local, state and federal law enforcement, in accordance with Chapter 111, Section 12, of the Massachusetts General Laws. Qualitative identification of narcotics, common street drugs, and pharmaceuticals is conducted by the Division of Analytical Chemistry, Forensic Drug Laboratories in both the Jamaica Plain (Boston) and Amherst facilities. The laboratories employ 3 evidence officers and 19 analysts and laboratory supervisors. The staff uses Drug Enforcement Authority (DEA) methodology to analyze unknown specimens by a variety of visual, microscopic, wet chemical, chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques. While Massachusetts laws stipulate that Drug Laboratory Certificates of Analysis are *prima facia* evidence in local and state jurisdictions, the United States Supreme Court recently decided in *Meledez-Diaz v. Massachusetts* that this regulation violates the confrontation clause. Analysts may now need to provide oral testimony in each drug case.

As law enforcement efforts have focused on possession and sale of illegal drugs, sample submissions to the laboratories have risen steadily. In fiscal year 2008, the Forensic Drug Laboratories received 41,420 specimens for testing. The high volume of samples coupled with declining resources exceeds the analytical capacity of the laboratories. The complexity of sample submissions; i.e., higher number of cases involving drug trafficking and the analytical challenges presented by the analysis of crack cocaine, GHB and ketamine, further exacerbate the already stressed system. The current sample backlog is 13,654 specimens with a 150 day turnaround time.

In 2006, the US Department of Justice strengthened its efforts to identify dangerous youth and gang members in local communities responsible for the most heinous violent crimes. Not surprisingly, these individuals are frequently involved in illegal drug activities. Often, the most effective means of incarcerating these individuals is through prosecution for violations of the federal drug statutes. Accurate and timely identification of drug seizure evidence is an integral component of a successful federal prosecution. In 2008, federal attorneys submitted 74 gang-related cases for analysis. While these cases comprise a relatively small proportion of the total case load the analysis is time and labor intensive. Analysis of federal cases is time-sensitive and requires a different and more complicated testing algorithm than is used for routine drug submissions. Federal sentencing guidelines are more stringent than Massachusetts state guidelines, resulting in additional time needed to weigh and test the samples. For example, additional infrared spectroscopy testing is required to differentiate between cocaine base (crack) and cocaine salt. The specificity of the sentencing guidelines has also served to increase the demand for independent chemist testing in recent years; Massachusetts chemists must accompany all independent chemists to insure sample integrity, further limiting time that could be spent performing specimen analysis.

Federal courts do not accept Drug Certificates as *prima facia* evidence, requiring analysts to testify in each case. The additional analytical requirements and mandatory analyst testimony in federal court have exceeded the capacity of the existing system, resulting in delays in testing and reporting of these important sample results. The US Attorneys' Office projects an increase in drug submissions in the next calendar year as a result of intensified efforts by the Anti-Gang Initiative. The Massachusetts State Laboratory chemists currently spend a disproportionate amount of time on federal cases versus state cases, and the laboratory will be unable to meet the increased demand for testing these high priority specimens given its present staffing.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS



	Federal Share	Match Share	Total
A Personnel	8,577.80	-	8,577.80
B Fringe	118.37	-	118.37
C Indirect	1,303.83	-	1,303.83
D Consultants	-	-	-
D Contracts	-	-	-
E Travel	-	-	-
F Equipment	-	-	-
G Supplies	-	-	-
H Other	-	-	-
Totals:	10,000.00	-	10,000.00

Applicant Organization: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**Executive Office of Public Safety
Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program
Budget Worksheet**

Budget Breakdown

A. Personnel—List each position by title and name of employee, if available. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project. Compensation paid for employees engaged in grant activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization.

B. Fringe Benefits—Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in budget category A and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. Fringe benefits on overtime hours are limited to FICA, Workman's Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.

C. Indirect Costs—Indirect costs are allowable only if the applicant has a Federally negotiated and approved indirect cost rate. A copy of the rate approval, (a fully negotiated agreement), must be attached. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant Federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories.

D. Consultants/Contracts—Indicate whether applicant's formal written Procurement Policy or the Federal Acquisition Regulations are followed.

Consultants—For each consultant enter the name, if known, service to be provided, hourly or daily fee (8-hour day), and estimated time on the project. Consultant fees in excess of \$450/day require additional justification and prior approval from OJP.

Contracts—Provide a description of the product or services to be procured by contract and an estimate of the cost. Applicants should use a competitive process for procurements compliant with the organization's own procurement policy. Sole Source Contracts are Not Allowed.

E. Travel—Travel costs (lodging, airfare, meal reimbursement) associated with the PSN grant must be in accordance with either the federal or an organizationally-approved travel policy.

F. Equipment—List non-expendable items that are to be purchased. (Note: Organization's own capitalization policy for classification of equipment should be used). Expendable items should be included in the "Supplies" category. Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high cost items and those subject to rapid technological advances. Rented or leased equipment costs should be listed in the "Consultants/Contracts" category. Explain how the equipment is necessary for the success of the project. All procurements should go through a competitive process based on the Organization's own procurement policy.

G. Supplies—List items by type (office supplies, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, hand held tape recorders) and show the basis for computation. Generally supplies include any materials that are expendable or consumed during the course of the project.

Supply Item	Quantity	Per Unit Cost	Brief Description	Cost

H. Other—List items (e.g., rent, reproduction, telephone, janitorial services) by major type and the basis of the computation. For example, provide the square footage and the cost per square foot for rent, and provide a monthly rental cost and how many months to rent.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

(Make as many copies of this worksheet as necessary) If needed (but not required) you may summarize or provide greater detail regarding your goals in an attached document prior to completing this worksheet.

Goal#_1_: Expedite analysis of drug seizures associated with federal prosecution of cases.

Objective#_1_: Develop infrastructure needed to rapidly identify and assign cases related to federal anti-gang initiative.

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	PROCESS/PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Streamline process for identification of samples involved in federal prosecutions	October 1- 30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with US Attorneys Office to determine a practical and efficient mechanism for rapid notification that cases are intended for federal prosecution. • Develop written guidelines for case identification. 	Elisabeth O'Brien US Attorneys Office
Ensure federal samples are assigned to chemists on a priority basis.	October 1-30, 2009 Project period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standard operating procedure for assignment of federal samples. • Monthly evaluation of efficiency and modifications as needed 	Elisabeth O'Brien
Ensure consistency and quality of expedited analyses.	October 1-30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a written standard operating procedure for expedited analysis of federal samples. 	Charles Salemi Analytical staff

EVALUATION AND IMPACT OUTCOME ASSESSMENT: (bullet instruments or tools being utilized here and attach additional documentation describing evaluative methods-maximum two pages)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance is successful if the indicated policies developed and documents are written. Evaluation of their efficacy will be assessed no later than January 2010 and necessary modifications implemented. • Target measures include: rapid assignment of identified federal cases (within 1 working day). Assignment times will be captured in the Drug Laboratory computer application.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

(Make as many copies of this worksheet as necessary) If needed (but not required) you may summarize or provide greater detail regarding your goals in an attached document prior to completing this worksheet.

Goal# 1 : Expedite analysis of drug seizures associated with federal prosecution of cases

Objective# 2 : Reduce turnaround time required for analysis of drug seizures associated with federal prosecution.

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	PROCESS/PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Priority assignment of cases to chemists for analysis.	November 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases are assigned within one working day of identification. 	Elisabeth O'Brien
Evidence is analyzed in accordance with laboratory standard operating procedures for expedited testing of federal samples.	November 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified cases are given the highest priority. After hours/ weekend work is authorized for timely completion. • Testing is complete within seven calendar days. 	Analytical Staff Charles Salemi
Laboratory results of expedited tests are reported to US Attorneys office.	October 1-30, 2009 November 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess most efficient mechanism for reporting results. • Report results within 1 working day. 	Elisabeth O'Brien Elisabeth O'Brien Administrative staff

EVALUATION AND IMPACT OUTCOME ASSESSMENT: (bullet instruments or tools being utilized here and attach additional documentation describing evaluative methods-maximum two pages)

- The evidence office supervisor will monitor times for the following variables: assignment, testing and reporting and using the Drug Lab computer application prepare monthly management reports for the Director.
- Reports will be reviewed jointly and if necessary, modifications to processes will be implemented.
- Results reporting to the US Attorneys will be assessed quarterly using computer and survey techniques.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

(Make as many copies of this worksheet as necessary) If needed (but not required) you may summarize or provide greater detail regarding your goals in an attached document prior to completing this worksheet.

Goal# 2 : Decrease backlog of forensic drug evidence awaiting testing.

Objective# 1 : Test an average of 200 more specimens/ month than the laboratory receives.

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	PROCESS/PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Analyze pending evidence giving highest priority to cases involving trafficking in communities with anti-gang initiatives. Test additional samples in the backlog as resources permit.	October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize after hours and weekend end work to analyze evidence in the backlog. 	Elisabeth O'Brien Charles Salemi Analytical & Administrative staff

EVALUATION AND IMPACT OUTCOME ASSESSMENT: (bullet instruments or tools being utilized here and attach additional documentation describing evaluative methods-maximum two pages)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug laboratory database is used to quantify the number of pending samples from the backlog were analyzed with the PSN resources. • Sample turn around time for high priority cases is compared to TAT prior to PSN funding.